ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In an apparatus or a method for determining a spatial alignment of a semitrailer or trailer which is connected to a prime mover, sensors are provided which are arranged on the prime mover in order to produce sensor signals which describe the spatial alignment of the semitrailer or trailer relative to the prime mover, wherein the sensors detect contours of the semitrailer or trailer. Furthermore, an evaluation unit is provided which uses the sensor signals to determine at least one angle variable which describes an angle between the prime mover and the semitrailer or trailer. The sensor signals include image information from at least one of a two-dimensional representation and an image of a linear sub-area of the detected contours of the semitrailer or trailer. The evaluation unit determines the at least one angle variable on the basis of the image information by evaluating the rate of change of geometric characteristics of the at least one of the two-dimensional representation and the image.